

MINUTES  
of the  
GOVERNING BOARD  
of the  
SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

January 30, 1997

A Special Meeting of the SCWRCA as called to order by Chairperson Rick Putnam at 9:10 am at the Lodge at Ed Davis Park, Towsley Canyon, Newhall.

The roll was called and the following members were present: Mr. Putnam, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Calleia, and Mr. Carvalho. Quorum present.

Representing the staff was: Ms. Rorie Skei, Assistant Executive Officer, and Ms. Nancy Hafner, Board Secretary.

**III. Approval of minutes of the meeting of August 29, 1996.**

On motion of Mr. Daniel, seconded by Mr. Calleia, the minutes of August 29, 1996 were approved.

Members of the public present: Gary Olsena Park & Rec intern, Mike Rubin, City of Santa Clarita and Don Mullaly

Paul Edelman was introduced as the Deputy Division Chief of Northern Division.

**IV. Status of City of Santa Clarita's annexation proposal.**

Mike Rubin of the City of Santa Clarita updated the board on his discussions with property owners in the area of the proposed annexation. He showed a map with the respective parcels. The landowners have until February 17, 1997 to respond to the proposal.

Ms. Skei said the Conservancy will respond positively as an involved landowner.

The board discussed the zoning aspects involved for the various property owners.

Chair requested that item VIII. be heard next.

**VIII. Cowboy Poetry Festival/Mentryville Trail Ride event discussion.**

Mr. Daste, Supervisor in the City of Santa Clarita Recreation and Park Department, talked about the breakfast ride at Mentryville for the Cowboy Poetry Festival in April. The city will be working with the Conservancy on this portion of the Festival in an effort to introduce more people to Mentryville and to expand the Poetry Festival.

Conservancy staff will coordinate the breakfast, horses and the site logistics.

**V. Report on fall and winter visitor use in Santa Clarita Woodlands Park.**

Ms. Skei reported on the October 19, 1996 Harvest Festival at Mentryville which drew about 2500 people and was quite successful. New parking access has improved public access while keeping congestion out of town. Recent newspaper articles and tours draw visitors. An upcoming article in the March edition of Sunset will be beneficial for introducing people to Mentryville. Trail construction and restoration work continues at East Canyon.

Mr. Carvalho suggested making the Mentryville workparty an annual event. The City also has a wish list where contractors can donate material or labor.

Staff will look into the scheduling of another workday in October.

**Public Comments**

Don Mullaly suggested moving other old buildings into the Mentryville site.

**VI. Report on Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Initial Workprogram for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996 (Proposition A) in regard to Santa Clarita Woodlands proposed acquisition and improvement projects.**

Paul Edelman gave the background of the last workprograms and the two Proposition A's. The LA County Board of Supervisors will be voting shortly on the acquisition and improvement items proposed under the recent Prop A.

Ms. Skei said the passage of the 1996 Proposition A will allow us to pay off Chevron and leave funds for the restoration of the house, rebuilding the recreation hall next to the school house, and related improvements. East Canyon will be the ranger station while the barn will be used for maintenance crews and a visitor center. The Superintendent's House is still the major focus.

**Public Comments**

Don Mullaly talked about new trail possibilities.

Ms. Skei said Rice Canyon trails are open to multiple users now.

**VII. Status report on City of Santa Clarita/Rivendale property.**

Mr. Putnam gave an update on the City's activities in pursuing some of the options raised at the workshop such as equestrian facilities, campground development, the possibility of having an Agricultural Fair site in Santa Clarita. He said use will be

compatible with the open space of the Woodlands. SCWRCA and Conservancy participation would be advantageous on the various options available.

On motion of Mr. Caravalho, seconded by Mr. Putnam the following motion was adopted by a vote of 4 yes and 0 no.

Resolution 97 -

That the Board authorizes an ad hoc committee of Mr. Caravalho and Mr. Calleia to be formed to

*(The full text of the resolution is on file with the Authority.)*

That Mr. Caravalho and Mr. Calleia shall serve as an ad hoc committee with Mr. John Danielson, Department of Parks and Recreation.

Rick indoor exhibition facility that could be used for dances, concerts or convention type events.

Don if it goes on the wetlands you would have to do an EIR, Conservancy would have to go for Orcutt Ranch if that happens. Lots of questions in this scenario.

Rick development of some type recreational in nature has always been a strong possibility for that property. Zoned commercial. Would like Don's input as to areas that need special consideration.

Don the SEA boundary comes right down in there also. North of Towsley creek needs a trail up to the Wiley trailhead. Keeps hikers off the road and safer. City could do that. Grade is small and many people prefer to hike on flats.

Rorie Camp Scudder crews could do that easily if ok with city, Don will flag trail. It is a part of the canyon loop trail.

Don he and Henry Schultze had 600-800 valley oaks acorns planted last fall and we will see what happens in the next few months. This could help start revegetation of canyon bottoms. They seedlings need to be taped to stakes to help their chance of survival. Rorie not sure about stakes all over the ground. She talked about the Resource Stewardship Unit a little.

**IX. Consideration of resolution honoring Mentryville volunteer docents.**

Ms. Skei recommended that the board recognize the volunteers who have been working leading hikes. There will be an event on February 20th at Towsley Canyon Lodge. The Conservancy will present certificates of appreciation.

On motion of Mr. Calleia, seconded by Mr. Daniel, the following resolution was adopted by a vote of 4 yes and 0 no.

Resolution No. 97 -

That the board recognizes the efforts of the Friends of Mentryville docents

*(The full text of the resolution is on file with the Authority.)*

**X. Public Comment on any matter not on the agenda**

There were none.

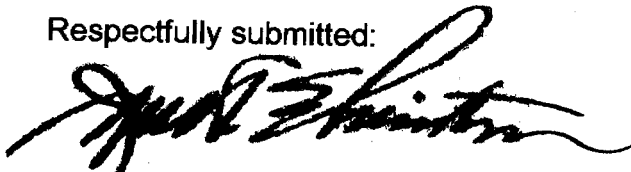
**XI. Statements, responses, questions or directions to staff pursuant to Section 54954.2(a) of the Government Code.**

The board discussed the pros and cons of historical designation in reference to a museum and restoration of the Mentryville site.

**XII. Announcement of next meeting and adjournment.**

The next meeting will be April 10, 1997 at Towsley Canyon Lodge 10:00 am, the regular scheduled meeting would have been April 3, 1997. Chair adjourned the meeting at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted:



JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, AICP  
Executive Officer

Approved:

RICK PUTNAM  
Chair